M.R.O. 1—4,002—16 9-48.

(1) Number of pages

(2) Date of repair

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 984	Press
~~B.P. No.~~ 708-709	~~Mis.~~
Dated 31- 3- 1873.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
31st March 1873.

No. 708. Read the following letter from the District Engineer, Madura, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madura, 5th March 1873, No. 5,203 :—

In reference to G. O., 13th February 1873, No. 467, intimating that the Supervisor in charge of the Paumben Works will be replaced by an Overseer, I have the honour most respectfully to point out that should this ruling be adhered to, I cannot hold myself in any way responsible for the fitting maintenance of the Paumben channel.

2. Of course I am perfectly aware that there are Overseers, and that it is possible therefore that there may be some shining light on the list who is equal to the occasion ; but taking the whole of the Overseers in this and the Tinnevelly District, which until quite recently constituted the 8th Division, I can most confidently assert that there is not a single Overseer on that list who is competent to the charge of the Paumben works.

3. It is to be remembered that it has only been by unflagging and intelligent superintendence that the channel has reached its present state of effectiveness, namely, providing a depth of from 12 to 14 feet at low water, and if that superintendence be removed for a cheaper and inferior agency there can be little doubt but that the advantages now reaped by the public will rapidly become a thing of the past, in consequence of the channel's silting up, as must otherwise inevitably be the case.

4. It appears to me, moreover, that the public have a certain right to claim that their interests shall not be jeopardized in this connection. During the year 1871-72 the Government have received from pilotage fees no less than Rupees 22,385-6-1, *vide* G. O., 23rd October 1872, No. 123, and the public will naturally presume that something is to be done for them in return. It is, clearly therefore, extremely unadvisable for the Government to be running the risk of vessels sticking fast in the channel, owing to the nomination, to the charge of the channel works, of men wanting in departmental experience or knowledge of machinery. The Paumben works comprise a charge quite apart from the usual run of departmental work, and it is for this reason that I make this special representation on the subject.

No. 709. Order thereon, 31st March 1873, No. 984.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 74.

Considering that the Madura District Engineer has the services of two Sub-divisional Officers, one an Assistant Engineer and one a Supervisor, available in the Madura Range, and that of a special officer in the Dindigul Range (for whom he has so little to do that he offers his services to Municipalities), His Excellency the Governor in Council is of opinion that the District Engineer is in a position to provide without difficulty for such additional superintendence for the Paumben channel as he may consider necessary, in addition to the Overseer allotted for the ordinary work connected therewith.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, Madura.

Exd. S. T. Auctin.

No. 5203

District Engineer's Office
Madura 5th March 1873.

From

Lieut Colonel N. A. Roberts R.E.
District Engineer, Madura,

To

Colonel G. W. Walker R.E.
Secretary to Government D.P.W.

Sir,

In reference to G.O. 13th February 1873, No. 467, intimating that the Supervisor in charge of the Paumbum Works will be replaced by an Overseer, I have the honor most respectfully to point out that should this ruling be adhered to, I cannot hold myself in any way responsible for the fitting maintenance of the Paumbum channel.

2. Of course I am perfectly aware that there are Overseers and

Overseers, and that it is possible therefore that there may be some shining light on the list who is equal to the occasion, but taking the whole of the Overseers in this and the Tinnevelly District, which until quite recently constituted the 8th Division, I can most confidently assert that there is not a single Overseer on that list who is competent to the charge of the Paumbum Works.

3. It is to be remembered that it has only been by unflagging and intelligent superintendence, that the channel has reached its present state of effectiveness, viz providing a depth of from 12 to 14 feet at low water, and if that superintendence be removed for a cheaper and inferior agency, there can be little doubt but that the advantages now reaped

by the public will rapidly become a thing of the past,— in consequence of the channel's silting up, as must otherwise inevitably be the case.

4 It appears to me, moreover, that the public have a certain right to claim that their interests shall not be jeopardized, in this connection.- During the year 1871-72 the Government have received from pilotage fees no less than Rs. 22385-6-1, Vide G.O. 23 October 1872, No 123, and the public will naturally presume that something is to be done for them in return.- It is, clearly therefore, extremely unadvisable for the Government to be running the risk of vessels sticking fast in the channel, owing to the nomination, to the charge of the channel works, of men wanting in Departmental

experience or knowledge of machinery the Pumping Works comprise a charge quite apart from the usual run of Departmental work, and it is for this reason that I make this special representation on the subject.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your Most Obdt servant

Rocq J Roberts Lieut Col RE
District Engineer

P.W. 1873 Departy
Pro. of Govt for March
No 1595 5208

From

The District Engineer
Madura

To

The Secretary to Government D.P.W.

Dated 5th March 1873
Received 11th

Requests that for reasons assigned the Supervisor may be allowed to continue to have charge of Paumbum Works.

No 708

No 984 - 31st March /73 -

[illegible]

No. 984 P.W.D.

Proceedings of the Madras Governmen[t]

Read the following:

From,

The District Engineer

Madura } (H.E. No. 52030) 5th March

Considering tha[t] the Madura Distric[t] Engineer has the servic[es] of 2 Sub Divisional officers, one an Assistan[t] Engineer and one a Supervisor, available in the Madura Range and that of a Special officer in the Dindigu[l] Range (for whom he ha[s] so little to do that he offers his services to Municipalities,) the

Excellency the Governor
in Council is of opinion
that, ~~it~~ [H.D.E. is in a position to] will be his own
fault if he does not
provide [without difficulty for] such additional
superintendence for the Paum-
-ben channel as he may
consider necessary, in
addition to the Overseer
allotted for the ordinary
work connected therewith.

G.N.W.

To the Dt Engr Madura

R. 708-9 Desp. 2/4/73

C 17 Mar/73 R. 18

No. 1595

Govt. of {1873} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To The District Engr.
Madura

Dated

Recd. Encl.

G. O. 31st March 1873 No. 984.

Nos. 708 & 709

Paumben Channel. Passing orders on letter from the Dt. Engr. Madura, requesting that the Supervisor in charge of the Channel may be allowed to continue on the work.